

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS
WESTERN DIVISION

DARRION O. FOOTE,)	
)	
Plaintiffs,)	
)	
v.)	No. 11 C 50150
)	
SWEDISH AMERICAN HOSPITAL,)	Judge Frederick J. Kapala
DENNY ECCLES, MICHAEL J. CASNER,)	
M.D., HEATHER R. FREY, N.P., SCOTT G.)	Formerly case No. 11 L 114,
FRENCH, M.D., UNITED STATES OF)	Circuit Court of 17th Judicial Circuit,
AMERICA)	Winnebago, Illinois
)	
Defendants.)	
)	

**UNITED STATES' MOTION TO DISMISS FOR
FAILURE TO EXHAUST ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES**

The United States of America, by its attorney, Patrick J. Fitzgerald, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois, moves to dismiss pursuant to Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 12(b)(1) and 12(b)(6), and in support, states as follows:

1. On March 31, 2011, plaintiff Darrion O. Foote commenced the above civil action against Swedish American Hospital, Denny Eccles, Michael J. Casner, M.D., Heather R. Frey, N.P., Scott G. French, M.D., Crusader Community Health Center, Lynn Yontz, N.P., and Arvin Silva, M.D. alleging medical malpractice. For purposes of this lawsuit, Lynn Yontz was a nurse practitioner and Arvin Silva was a physician for Crusader Central Clinic Association, also known as Crusader Community Health Center, a private entity that receives grant money from the Public Health Service pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 233.

2. On May 23, 2011, the case was removed to the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, and the United States was substituted as the federal defendant in place of Lynn Yontz, Arvin Silva, and Crusader Community Health Center, pursuant to the Federal Tort Claims Act (“FTCA”), 28 U.S.C. § 2679(d), and 42 U.S.C. § 233.

3. The FTCA is the “exclusive” jurisdictional basis for a common law tort claim against the United States or any employee “while acting within the scope of his office or employment.” 28 U.S.C. §§ 1346(b), 2679(b)(1); *Duffy v. United States*, 966 F.2d 307, 313 (7th Cir. 1992).

4. No FTCA action can be initiated against the United States until the plaintiff has presented a claim to the appropriate federal agency and that agency has denied the claim or has failed to issue a final decision within six months of the date that the claim was presented. 28 U.S.C. § 2675(a); *McNeil v. United States*, 508 U.S. 106 (1993); *Kanar v. United States*, 118 F.3d 527, 528 (7th Cir. 1997) (“No one may file suit under the Federal Tort Claims Act without first making an administrative claim.”); *Erxleben v. United States*, 668 F.2d 268, 270 (7th Cir. 1981); *Best Bearings Co. v. United States*, 463 F.2d 1177, 1179 (7th Cir. 1972). This administrative claim requirement is a prerequisite that cannot be waived. *Best Bearings*, 463 F.2d at 1179.

5. The complaint in this case does not allege that plaintiff ever presented the administrative claim required by the FTCA, and a search of the Department of Health and Human Services’ computerized database of administrative tort claims reveals that plaintiff has not filed an administrative tort claim with the Department. Exhibit A (Declaration of Meredith Torres); *see Capitol Leasing Co. v. Fed. Deposit Ins. Corp.*, 999 F.2d 188, 191 (7th Cir. 1993) (noting that in a motion to dismiss the court may look beyond the jurisdictional allegations of the complaint to determine whether subject matter jurisdiction exists).

WHEREFORE, this case should be dismissed as to the United States for failure to exhaust administrative remedies.¹ Once dismissed, the remainder of the case should be remanded to state court.

Respectfully submitted,

PATRICK J. FITZGERALD
United States Attorney

By: s/ Monica V. Mallory
MONICA V. MALLORY
Assistant United States Attorney
308 West State Street, Suite 300
Rockford, Illinois 61101
(815) 987-4444
monica.mallory@usdoj.gov

¹ Whether the dismissal is effectively with or without prejudice will depend on whether plaintiff may still timely file an administrative claim under the savings provisions of 28 U.S.C. § 2679(d)(5), a question not before the court at this time.